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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1943 No. 16

A TREMENDOUS TASK

H.E. General Sir CLAUDE AUCHINLECK

India's primary military business now is to form herself into a vast base from which the striking forces can operate with efficiency and security. This is a tremendous task and one which will demand all the energy and talent we can muster

The Japanese realize very well the importance of India to the Allied cause and they must be expected to do all that they can to interfere with India's war effort in the hope that by so doing the Allied offensive will be delayed and their own position strengthened

I do not believe that the Japanese now have the resources with which to make a serious attempt to invade India either by land or by sea or from the air. They might have made some such attempt last year, but they have, I think, missed their chance. They are likely, however, to take every chance to cause us loss and annoyance by raiding our ports and coasts which are within reach of their aircraft

The people of India have proved in the past and have shown again very recently that they can ignore such efforts to turn them from their purpose

H.E. General Sir CLAUDE AUCHINLECK, Commander-in-Chief, India in a broadcast from New Delhi on Monday (December 13)

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NOTICE

There will be no issue of the *Madras War Review* next week on account of the Christmas holidays. The next issue, which will be a Special New Year Number, will be published on 31st December 1943.

WE HIT; THE JAPANESE RUN

"The preliminaries of fighting a major Pacific offensive are now complete and we are getting ready to drive home some hard blows. We now have equipment and trained men to do a complete job. Plans are going ahead. The whole strategy is now becoming apparent. It is perfectly obvious now that what seemed only nibbling was carried on with the purpose of decimating the enemy's air and surface strength. Important elements of the Japanese fleet have been destroyed piecemeal. We are getting stronger and stronger all over the Pacific. We seldom encounter transports or cargo ships in Japanese outlying ports. They have resorted to carrying supplies and men in self-propelled barges. These are particular prey of our boats—hundreds of Japanese barges being sunk and thousands of their troops lost. Air losses continue to be six and eight of theirs to one plane of ours. This is steady attrition.

The Japanese continue their fantastic victory claims such as destruction of our carrier fleet. This is all done for the purpose of propaganda. It is a commentary on the complete hundred per cent control by the Japanese Government of all sources of news. There has been no battle of any significance in the Pacific area for at least a month other than hit and run affairs in which we hit and the Japanese run."

—COLONEL FRANK KNOX, *U.S. Navy Secretary, at a Press Conference in Washington on 14th December.*

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MUST FIGHT JAPAN TO THE BITTER END

"The war with Japan is not one in which we, in Britain are playing the part of benevolent assistance. Even if we are compelled for the time being to devote the greater part of our human and material resources to the task of defeating Germany, we are still principals in the Far Eastern war. Japan is just as great a menace to the security of the British Commonwealth as she is to the security of either the United States or China. Let us ask anyone of the splendid fighting men of Canada, Australia and New Zealand whether they could contemplate any future for our countries unless the power of Japan were broken. They, thousands of them, came here in 1939 to help us in our defence here. Many of them are still here in spite of the dangers to their own countries. We should be utterly unworthy of our heritage and of our tradition if we did not, at the earliest possible moment, deploy all our resources for the purpose of establishing their security on a firm basis. For that we have to fight Japan to the bitter end, whatever the cost and however long it takes."

—MR. ANTHONY EDEN, *in his war review in the House of Commons on 14th December.*

◆

SURE FOUNDATION FOR VICTORY

The bombing offensive against Germany was one of the mightiest developments in military history. The Allies' military and political situation had shown a great improvement in the last 12 months. The changed face of the military situation was plain both in Russia and the Mediterranean. The Germans had received heavy blows. The U-boat menace had been countered and the *Luftwaffe* was suffering from a strange malaise. On the other hand, there were air blows on Germany of such magnitude that some of the largest cities were being systematically wiped out.

The improvement in the position of the Allies in the diplomatic sphere was even greater. All hopes which Germany pinned on disagreement had now disappeared completely and sure foundation had been laid for victory.

—FIELD-MARSHAL, SMUTS *in his first statement to the press after his return from Britain, on Tuesday, 14th Dece.*

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THE SOVIET-CZECH PACT

THE treaty of amity, mutual aid and post-war collaboration signed in Moscow between the Soviet and Czech Governments on Sunday (December 12), the text of which is published elsewhere, marks an important stage in the politics of Central-Eastern Europe. It has been stated that the treaty is designed to form a fib in the cuirass of general European security, by blocking any future Eastward march by Germany. The treaty, said Dr. Benes, President of Czechoslovakia, in an interview in Moscow, " emphasizes what all great Allied powers have emphasized so often before, namely, that German *Drang Nach Osten* (Drive to the East) must be definitely brought to an end, and the present policy of Germany must never be repeated again." It is a great and positive step forward on the road towards general security in post-war Europe by the formation of a Central Eastern European *Bloc* against aggression.

THE protocol to the agreement is a clear invitation to Poland to join the treaty of mutual friendship and collaboration. The protocol says that " in the event of any third State, which has common frontiers with the U.S.S.R., or with the Czechoslovak Republic, and which in the present war has been an object of German aggression, desiring to become a party to this agreement, such a State will be given the opportunity, with the sanction of the U.S.S.R., and the Czechoslovak Republic, of signing this agreement which thereby would acquire the quality of Tripartite Agreement." The differences of opinion between Russia and Poland are not such that they cannot be settled by discussion and negotiation. Everything points to the fact that the Slav countries of Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslovia and the Soviet Union have much to gain by forming a Central-Eastern European *Bloc* against Germany. These countries have constantly been the victims of armed aggression. Many invasions have failed to crush them, but as separate and disunited entities, most of them have fallen easy victims to German aggression.

Towards a Central-Eastern Confederation

TO avoid repetition of similar happenings in future, a series of attempts have been made during the last two or three years to form something like a Central-Eastern European Confederation. In November 1940, an agreement between the Czech and Polish Governments-in-exile was signed in London expressing their intention to collaborate closely in foreign, economic and military affairs in post-war Europe. In November 1941 when a conference of the International Labour Organization was held at Columbia University, New York, a joint declaration signed by the delegates of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslovia and Greece was issued announcing the formation of a *bloc* of these nations to serve as a basis after the war, for a confederation of peoples from the Baltic to the Aegean. It was stated that after the defeat of Germany, Austria, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Albania would be asked to join the *bloc* for the achievement of common strategical, political, economic and social aims.

AS a result of this declaration, two pacts were signed in London in January 1942—the Greek-Yugoslov Pact and the Czech-Polish Pact. The Greek-Yugoslov Pact envisaged a federation called the Balkan Union, with a common plan of defence, a common economic policy, a customs union and a common foreign policy for the two countries. It was hoped that other Balkan countries ruled by Governments freely and legally constituted would join the Union in due course. As regards the Czech-Polish Pact, the two Governments concerned expressed a desire for a Czechoslovak-Polish Confederation which would embrace also other States of that European region with which Czechoslovakia and Poland are vitally connected. There would be a joint general staff for defence preparations in peace and a common supreme command in war time. As the Balkan Union, this Confederation would have a common policy in regard to foreign affairs, military questions, finances, social problems and communications. It was hoped that for the general security and prosperity of the area in Europe between the Baltic and the Aegean Seas, the two confederations established by the Czechoslovak-Polish and Yugoslov-Greek Agreements would collaborate.

Russo-Polish Relations

THUS attempts were being made for a joint reconstruction of Europe's Middle Zone, but in April 1943 there was a set-back in the scheme of a Central-Eastern Confederation by the suspension of Russo-Polish relations, which had an inevitable reaction on the relations between Poland and Czechoslovakia. " It is unthinkable," said Dr. Ripka, the Czech Minister of State, in May 1943, " that a Confederation or even an alliance could be arrived at between Czechoslovakia and Poland, with one of these states on friendly terms with the Soviet Union whilst the relations of the other State towards that great power were unsettled or even unfriendly." Another reason why Czech-Polish relations had not developed satisfactorily was the fact that Czechoslovakia was at war with Hungary, because the latter had seized Czech territory after the Munich Agreement, but Poland continued to be still friendly with that State. Further the Polish Government were not willing to consider the question of return of Teschen to Czechoslovakia.

[*See tenth page bottom*

R.I.N. VESSEL RESCUE R.A.F. BOMBER CREW—*When a Royal Air Force bomber was recen ly returning to its Indian base it developed engine tro ible and the pilot was forced to crash land in the Bay of Bengal. Three hours later the crew were picked up by a Royal Indian Navy patrol vessel which had been directed to the spot by other aircraft which went out in search of the lost airmen.*

Photo shows an Intelligence Officer interviewing the crew of the bomber after they had been picked up and brought safely back to base.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

The Battle of the Kiev Bulge—Germans Caught on the Wrong Foot

The last round in the month-old battle of the Kiev bulge is being fought with great ferocity. General VATUTIN has hit the Germans hard and forced them to abandon some hard-won ground. Marshal ERICH VON MANSTEIN's furious counter-attacks have not succeeded in their main objective so far, in spite of the fact that he has lavishly poured in tanks and infantry in a savage attempt to break through the Red Army line. His gains in territory have been out of all proportion to the enormous losses of the Germans. It is clear that the Russians have caught the Germans on the wrong foot and if they press the advantage home, VON MANSTEIN's counter-attacks will become a complete failure. The Germans are now regrouping their forces before launching a new blow. But this gives the time necessary for the Red Army to build fortifications and bring up reinforcements.

The question whether the Russians will take the opportunity of launching counter-offensives in this vital sector now assumes considerable importance. What will the Germans do in the case of such counter-attacks? They may follow the method which they have often exploited in the past, that of switching troops from a "quiet" sector to a busy one. But the Russian plan is not to allow any "quiet" sectors, and even if there are such sectors the cutting of German lateral communications in more than one important place will have the effect of pinning down the German troops in each area to a defence of its own sector.

* * * * *

Western Ukraine—What it means to Germans—Capture of Cherkassy

Let us now examine broadly the general position. The German counter-attacks have succeeded to a limited extent. They have, by the capture of Zhitomir and Korosten, blunted the Soviet bulge around Kiev. This is no doubt part of a well thought-out and co-ordinated plan to stop the onward march of the Red Army towards the Bug and the Dniester, which began five weeks ago when the Red Army captured Kiev (November 6). The German Command well realizes what the effect of the successes of the Red Army's advance would be. It would mean the recapture of the whole of Western Ukraine, the richest territory now held by the Germans in Russia. They had already been driven out of the Caucasus, the Kuban, the Donbas and Eastern Ukraine, and if they lose Western Ukraine also, disastrous consequences would follow. Further, the effect of Russian successes on the peoples of the Balkans would be considerable. If the Red Army overruns the territory between the Dnieper and the Dniester, the morale of the Rumanians and other Balkan satellites which has already been shaken, would crack. That is why the Germans are more than ever anxious to resist the Soviet advance. They have for the time being succeeded in halting the Russian drive towards the Dniester by holding Korosten, Zhitomir and Berdichev. They wanted to exploit this situation by keeping open the line from Berdichev to Znamenka with a view to feeding their forces in the Dnieper bend. But Znamenka, the key railway junction, which is some fifty miles south-east of Cherkassy, was captured on Friday last (December 10) by the Red Army under General KONIEV,

VIRTUES AND POWERS

(*By* R.G.)

Come, let us move mountains, now we have seen
The way of it. Let us remember miracles
on the waves, in the desert and in the sown,
when brave hearts adventured their coracles

of faith across the river in spate, swung
from thin ropes and spr ing dizzy-footed
over chasms, made December their spring
for hazardous high-flown plans, outwitted

Space and Time and the enemy. Now
it is our turn. We trace on the table
projects beyond old hope and drill new
fountains in the wilderness. Treble

what you first thought: is it so great
a feat as Stalingrad held or the ocean
filled with fallen submarines? Write
thousands instead of tens: the vision

does not exceed the rising and rousing power.
Did we not see the bomber fleets, thousands
instead of threes, that left their spoor
in the foe's laager, spears in his weasand?

Did war so multiply wits, so force
with fear man into eager potential,
so drive the mild multitudes into fierce
achievement—and shall the live wire's tension

drop away to zero? Come, let us turn
mountains into valleys. Heroes whom no winter
line daunted, no wall of fire stopped, have torn
out Doubt's palisades. Discern Faith's country
[and enter.

The rescued crew in a jeep after they had been brought safely back to base.

one of Russia's outstanding military leaders who was responsible for the capture of Kremenchug and Dniepropetrosk during the summer campaign.

In less than a week after the capture of Znamenka, Marshal STALIN has announced another big victory—the capture of Cherkassy. In addition to Cherkassy, there are two other distinct Russian thrusts in the Dnieper bend, which are intended to isolate the German forces in Kirovogrod and Krivoi-Rog. These thrusts have the effect of preventing the German Command from switching mobile panzer divisions to help the other sectors. Referring to the present position, the German military commentator, Colonel ERNEST VON HAMMER, says that the presence of Russians south-west of Kirovogrod means that this important communications centre has been outflanked.

* * * * *

So far as the situation further north is concerned, it may be noted that in spite of VON MANSTEIN'S counter-attacks on the southern and western flanks of the Kiev salient, the Red Army is continuing to advance along the northern banks of the Pripet River and may link the Soviet forces in the Gomel sector with those in the Kiev sector. It may be pointed out that the capture of Gomel which has placed the Red Army in a favourable position to assault the Germans in White Russia threatens directly the security of Mozyr, Zhlobin, Rogochev and Mogilev, four important German-held towns on the White Russian front. Of these, Zhlobin has become, after the fall of Gomel, the main southern German stronghold in White Russia. It is 50 miles north-west of Gomel on the railway to Minsk. There is a double Russian drive in the south-east and in the south-west towards this strong point. This constitutes a threat to VON KLUGE'S line running north through Mogilev and Orsha, which has already been menaced by the Russian offensive launched from Propaisk, which is 50 miles north-east of Rogochev on the main highway to Roslavl.

* * * * *

Propaisk Offensive—Direct Frontal Assault—Initiative in Russian Hands

This Propaisk offensive is a direct frontal assault threatening not only Rogochev, but also Mogilev 40 miles away in the north-west. If the Russians capture Rogochev and Zhlobin, which is 10 miles south of Rogochev by rail, they will cut the railway line between Zhlobin and Mogilev. This would mean that Mogilev will have to depend for reinforcements from Orsha in the north, and from Bobruisk (which is 30 and 35 miles from Rogochev and Zhlobin respectively) in the south-west.

As regards Mozyr, it must be now receiving supplies through the Pripet Marshes by rail from Pinsk in the west. The German Command must decide to hold a defensive line along the southern banks of the Pripet River with a view to preventing the Red Army forces in White Russia from breaking into Western Ukraine from the north. The Soviet forces are trying to encircle Mozyr.

One thing clearly emerges from the present battles in the southern front in Russia—that the initiative is slipping from the Germans to the hands of the Russians. It is the Red Army which will finally decide the fate of the German plan to hold on to Western Ukraine. The capture of Cherkassy has altered the whole situation in the Battle of the Bend. It is reported that there is increased Soviet pressure in the Cherkassy and Kirovogrod areas. The prospects of the Russian counter-offensive which is about to be launched here will be watched with interest.

R.I.A.S.C. LEARNER DRIVERS DELIVER THE GOODS AND KEEP CASUALTIES DOWN

400 R.I.A.S.C. learner drivers with only six weeks' training to their credit recently travelled a distance of 1,100 miles between two places in South India and came home with a surprisingly small number of casualties.

On the journey to their destination, a place 550 miles from home, only 4 out of 135 vehicles had to be left behind. The average loss is about half that sustained by experienced and fully trained British drivers, 120 vehicles were collected on the return journey, only one of which was a casualty.

These figures are feather tall enough for any drivers cap—but the sto y has additional point. The men carried 350 lakhs of cigarettes intended for our troops serving overseas. Cigarettes and morale go hand in hand and speed in delivery is therefore vital. The entire journey was accomplished in the short space of 13 days.

Flying Officer A. M. Dinwoodie, D.F.C. (Navigator) chatting with Sergeant C. Johnson, D.F.M. (Pilot) who fly together in a Beaufighter which has accounted for many Japanese oil tanks in Burma.

INDIA AND EMPIRE AIR TRAINING SCHEME

By OSWALD DUTCH

THE great attainments of British and Dominion pilots are mainly attributable to the Empire Air Training Scheme, the foundations of which were laid in September, 1939, three weeks after the outbreak of war. Its framers not only made use of the best men the Empire had to offer, but also of the great tracts available in India and the Dominions for the creation of an adequate air force. The wide open spaces of India, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa were utilized as schools for pilots, observers and gunners of the British air force—great spaces compared with which all areas on the European Continent shrink into nothing and appear confined and congested.

The establishment of this gigantic scheme was the outcome of a telegram sent by the late Neville Chamberlain, then British Prime Minister, to Mr. Mackenzie King, the Canadian Prime Minister, on September 26, 1939. Negotiations started three weeks later and, soon afterwards, a three-year plan, due to expire in March 1943, was worked out for the mass training of airmen. Before the termination of the arrangement it was renewed for a further two years. The original scheme provided for the training of 20,000 pilots and 30,000 air crews a year. But these early measures expanded by leaps and bounds. Tens of thousands of vigorous young men from all parts of the Empire responded eagerly to the first appeal for volunteers. A notable fact was that in Canada not only the Canadians flocked to the new training centres but a great number of young Americans joined up long before the United States itself became involved in the war.

EXHAUSTIVE TRAINING

A proper idea of the size to which the scheme has grown is afforded by the fact that, in addition to the tremendous number of crews from Great Britain alone, no fewer than 200,000 Canadians, 100,000 Australians, 37,000 South Africans, 30,000 New Zealanders and a corresponding number of Indians and members of the British colonies have passed through the Empire air training centres. The training itself is exhaustive and nothing whatever is left to chance. In the beginning it was decided that the training should last six months only, but soon a seventh month was added to bring the efficiency of the pilots, observers, and gunners to perfection. (In contrast the training periods in Germany have been shortened as the duration of the war has extended.)

Pilots have first to pass through an initial ground course. They then separate and study in the intermediate and advanced service flying schools. The former comprises precision in bomb releasing and the technique of the guns. Observers are trained in special schools where they have courses and tuition in air navigation. The gunners are given a wireless course besides all the general subjects.

By 1942, a certain high standard had been reached. The number of training units, 1,600 in 1941, had more than doubled and had reached the great figure of 3,300. It will be realized how many training aeroplanes are necessary when it is considered that there are hundreds of pupils in each of the units. These training schools are to-day not only working day and night in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa, but also in Great Britain itself, and in India, the West Indies, Rhodesia and Kenya.

The extent of the training scheme must, of course, be governed by the production of training aeroplanes. A considerable part of American, British, Australian and South African aeroplane production has to be continually allotted to these training schools which Mr. Churchill once called "the aerodromes of democracy." This can only be done by a steady increase in the production of all kinds of aeroplanes, bombers, fighters and training machines.

Although official figures are not available, it is known that aeroplane production in the United States in July of this year had reached the figure of 7,373 machines of all kinds and that the aeroplane factories of Great Britain produced 2,900 machines in the same month. Canada produced over 8,000 machines in the first four years of the war and a correspondingly large number came from the other Dominions.

COMPLETE HARMONY

The air training scheme is not confined to members of the British Empire. In Canada, for instance, there is within the general framework a special Norwegian training unit through which over 1,500 airmen have already passed. A large number of Polish, Czech, French, Belgian and other Allied pilots, observers and gunners are being trained in Canada and other parts of the British Dominions. At the beginning of 1941 no fewer than 38,000 applications for training in the great national scheme had been received from India. It often occurs that in the various units as many as nine different nationalities work together, all in complete harmony and always striving to improve the general high level of efficiency.

These few facts and figures illustrate the grand scale on which this air training scheme has been developed. For the first training period of three years £190,000,000 was allocated, but this sum has since been more than doubled. The scheme is of such a nature that it was not possible to demonstrate its success before two or three years had lapsed but since then a rich harvest of results has been reaped. This gigantic power had to be built up with the greatest care yet with all possible speed, in order to overwhelm the *Luftwaffe* and drive it from the skies—that *Luftwaffe* which had a five years' start on the British plan. This power is now in full swing, and its successes in combat with Goering's boasted invincible weapon prove day in and day out how well worth while all the trouble and care lavished on the "aerodromes of democracy" through the Empire training scheme have been.

A LEGAL QUESTION

"Mein Fuehrer, why not we sue the British for infringement of copyright? They are copying my own technique!"

—Specially drawn for the MADRAS WAR REVIEW.

BRITAIN'S MOTOR INDUSTRY GOES TO WAR

By WALTER HILL

BRITAIN'S motor industry has been completely absorbed into the war effort. The manufacture of private cars drastically curtailed after the outbreak of war, and almost completely suspended in 1940. Similarly the production of commercial lorries and buses has been virtually suspended. To-day the industry is producing large quantities of aircraft, military vehicles of all kinds, tanks, and, last but not least, agricultural tractors, which have played such an important part in the expansion of Britain's food production.

Broadly, the concerns engaged in the manufacture of automobiles can be classified into three groups. First, there are the large firms which, before the war, usually combined the manufacture of low-priced private cars with the production of light and medium-sized lorries. These include Morris Motors, Limited, Ford Motor Company, Limited, Austin Motor Company, Limited, Vauxhall Motors, Limited, and the Rootes organization.

Next come the smaller and mainly high-class private car manufacturers, such as Rolls-Royce, Limited, Birmingham Small Arms, Limited. (The manufacturers of Daimler and Lanchester cars), Alvis, Limited, Rover, Limited, Standard Motor Company, Limited, Riley (Coventry), Limited—owned by Morris Motors, Limited—and others.

Finally, there are the manufacturers of heavy lorries and chassis for heavy buses, such as Associated Equipment Company, Limited, Leyland Motors, Limited, and Albion Motors, Limited. There was a trend towards larger units before the war, but on the whole the industry continued to consist of a large number of smallish firms.

PRE-WAR PRODUCTION

The size of Britain's motor industry before the war was small compared with the industry in the United States. The number of persons employed in the manufacture of vehicles, parts and accessories was about 220,000. Although the general trend of production was upwards, the total output of vehicles only once exceeded half a million—in 1937. The course of production since 1929 was—

	Private Cars and Taxis.	Lorries and Buses.	Total.
1929	182,347	56,458	238,805
1931	158,997	67,310	226,307
1933	220,779	65,508	268,287
1935	311,544	92,176	403,720
1937	389,633	118,116	507,749
1938	342,390	105,171	447,561

So far as the manufacture of private cars is concerned, the industry concentrated mainly on the production of low-powered cars, due largely to the so-called horse-power tax, an annual tax raising with the size of the engine. Nearly two-thirds of pre-war sales in the British market were of 10 horse-power or less.

The larger private car-cum-lorries concerns were well suited to the manufacture of military vehicles of all kinds, and to the management of large aircrft factories. Ford motors concentrated on the production of large numbers of tractors.

MAKING AERO-ENGINES

The smaller firms, specializing in the manufacture of high-class cars—being accustomed to precision engineering—provided a most valuable addition to the capacity for making aero-engines. Most of Britain's fast fighter aircraft, including the "Spitfire," and some of the famous heavy four-engined bombers, such as the "Lancaster," are powered with Rolls-Royce engines.

The manufacture of heavy lorries, again, could easily switch over to the production of the heaviest military vehicles and tank engines. The various branches of the car industry added considerably to Britain's capacity for making war equipment.

The industry has been working at high pressure on Government Orders during the past four years and it will have an important part to play after the war, providing employment and satisfying the home demand for cars.

REPLACING STOCK OF PRIVATE CARS

It will have to replace Britain's stock of private cars, amounting to about 2,000,000 vehicles before the war. A large proportion of this stock will be unserviceable after the war and the remainder will not be serviceable for long. To replace the pre-war stock in, say, five years would involve an annual output of 400,000 cars, that is an output exceeding the pre-war record of 389,633 in 1937.

Britain's car industry, like those in other countries, will not be short of orders after the war. Owing to the pressure of war work, it has been unable to continue even experimental work on cars. If the production of private cars is to be resumed rapidly, the industry will have to produce its pre-war models, at least for a season.

CAUTIONARY COUNSELS—V

(*By* R.G.)

Sanjeeva, Who Would Not Buy War Bonds and Became a Casualty

Sanjeeva by his gift for trade
A guite substantial fortune made
But was not minded to invest
His lakhs at moderate interest
Or to defray the war's expense
By lending money for defence.
He bought some houses and some land,
A motor car both large and grand,
Jewels and gold to please his wife
And clothes enough for all his life—
Paying three times as much or more
As he'd have done before the war.
But still so prosperous was trade,
More cash came in than all he paid.
He bought a stock here, there a share,
And still he found some cash to spare.
The only thing he would not buy
Was War Loan—do not ask me why.

And so he started on a course
That led to suffering and remorse.
For he the shops and markets scoured
For delicacies he devoured,
And drinks he quaffed from morn to night
With indiscriminate appetite.
Each month of Demon Gin would float
A dozen gallons down his throat,
And whisky too if he could get some—
Good liquor or Black Market jetsam.
Chocolates and pastries wolfed galore,
He'd clamour for a dozen more.
With pillaus gorged and oysters too
He sought out dishes rare and new,
And washed them down with fake champagne
Fit only for this human drain.

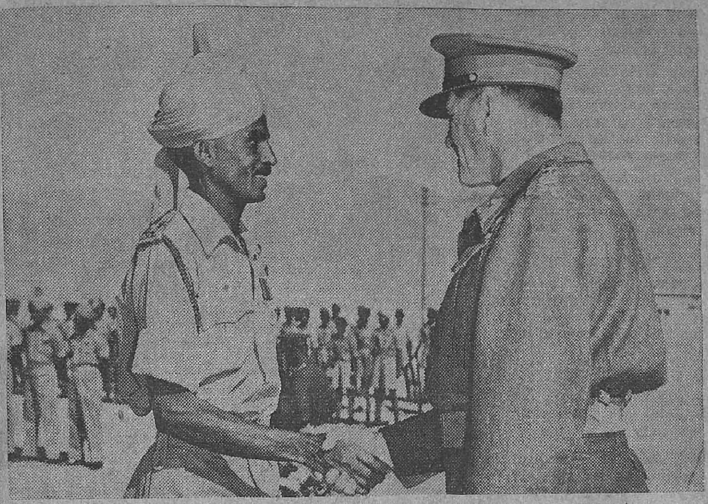
With so much oof he could afford
To load with luxuries his board,
While hangers-on would sweep it clean,
Becoming fat who once were lean.
So while financiers were puzzled,
He little cared, but bibbed and guzzled
And in the crisis of the nation
Made matters worse by self-inflation.

But though too kind authorities
Immersed in grave priorities
His scandalous conduct overlooked,
For retribution he was booked.
His stomach suddenly rebelled.
In vain he rolled, in vain he yelled,
And offered all his goods in vain
For mitigation of the pain.
The torments grew ; and doctors (called
Too late to save) looked on appalled.
Into an ambulance they bundled him
And off to hospital they trundled him.
There working with a stomach pump
They emptied out his swollen sump.
From now he'll spend his life in bed,
On arrowroot and gruel fed.

Moral

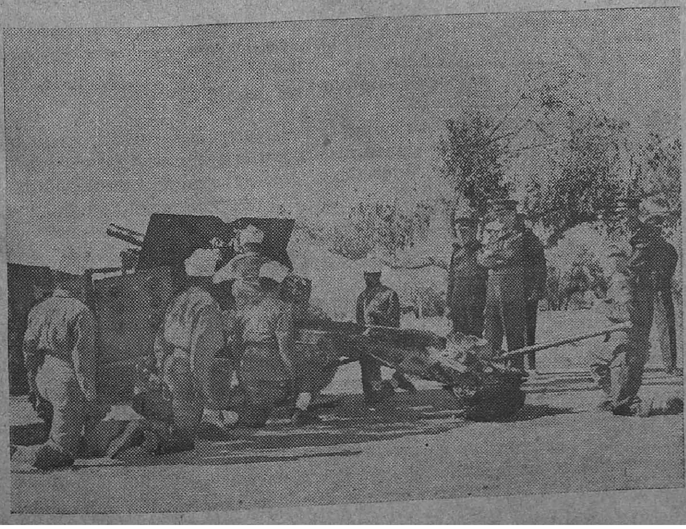
The more you spend the worse for you ;
Save and be patriotic too.

INDIA'S COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AT QUETTA



General Sir Claude Auchinleck paid a short but extensive visit to Quetta area recently to see the various Military Units stationed there. The high standard of training everywhere greatly impressed the Commander-in-Chief. Photo shows the Commander-in-Chief decorating Daffadar (now Jemadar) Risal Singh of the Royal Lancers with the I.D.S.M. for his bravery at Bir Hachiem in 1942.

General Sir Claude Auchinleck visited the Mohammedan Kitchen of the C.I.M.H. run by Mrs. Mustafa of the W.V.S.



The Commander-in-Chief watching Madrassi gunners in training.

SOVIET GOODWILL FOR BRITAIN

By SIR WALTER CITRINE

WE moved about Moscow as freely as we would have done about any British city, and I walked into shops and hotels without the slightest interference.

The traffic seemed to be about the same as when we were in Moscow in 1941. There were now fewer lorries loaded with troops and fewer tanks passing through the city, but the number of buses seemed to have grown, although many of them have been sent to the front to serve as transport vehicles and as ambulances.

There was a fair sprinkling of motor-cars, practically all of which were used by Government officials. The underground Metro was as thronged with passengers as ever. The splendid stations were clean, and the trains were frequent and comfortable.

The stores and the spacious squares of Moscow were clean, and there was practically no waste paper and few cigarette ends lying about. There were literally no dogs to be seen. To be exact, I saw one only while I was in Moscow, and very few in the provinces. Cats seemed to have disappeared.

The streets were not so crowded with pedestrians as on my last visit, but the theatres and other places of entertainment were well-patronized, and the performances were of extraordinarily high quality.

I saw comparatively few wounded men in Moscow, but it was difficult to distinguish them, as no special uniform, like our hospital blue, was worn, although the soldiers are allowed to display wound stripes.

The factories work continuously, but the workers have one rest day in every seven, making the working week generally 66 hours.

Average earnings vary considerably, and no figure for the whole country is available. The averages for particular works vary from 300 roubles per month at a chocolate factory to 860 roubles per month at a coal mine.

As for their spirits, while they may seem to some to be rather stolid on the streets, one has only to watch and hear them at a football match or at the circus, or better still, round the festive board, to realize how buoyant and vivacious they really are.

They love singing, music and dancing, and they have a highly developed sense of fun.

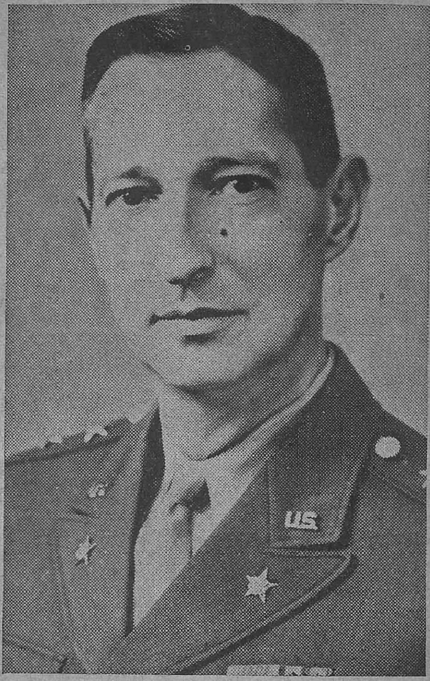
After two years of war I found them supremely confident in victory, solidly behind their Government, and especially their great leader, Stalin, who is regarded with something between awe and reverence.

Every war loan is rapidly over-subscribed, the workers investing on the average a whole month's pay per year.

Towards the British people they bear nothing but goodwill, strongly buttressed by the hope that, both during the war and after victory, our two peoples will be found co-operating closely together for the good of mankind.

I had the feeling at times that they were not always so fully acquainted with the British war effort as they should be.

They are so terribly conscious of the presence of the hated Fascist invaders on their soil, and so acutely aware of the tragic losses their country has suffered, both in men and material, that they are desperately anxious for the early opening of a second front in Western Europe.



General, Clark Cammander of the Allied Fifth Army, who was decorated recently with the Distinguished Service Cross by President Roosevelt in Sicily. The citation accompanying the award pays a great tribute to "his magnificent display of leadership, courage and determination during a critical phase of the battle" of Salerno. The above photograph was taken before his promotion to Lieutenant-General.

In the factories equipped with the most modern machinery (some of it, as in the Urals, has been evacuated from far distant cities), they work with unflagging energy and dogged determination. They know that every shell, every gun, every aeroplane, every tank they produce brings the day of triumphant peace nearer.

The optimistic Russian people, justly and affectionately proud of the magnificent feat of their splendid Red Army and Air Force, have no qualms for the future, either during the war or in the period of reconstruction.

—*Condensed from the* DAILY HERALD.

THE SOVIET-CZECH PACT—(*Continued from page* 3)

THESE are difficulties which have to be straightened out in due course if the Central Eastern European *Bloc* is to materialise in its proper form. The Soviet-Czech Treaty signed in Moscow is a big step forward in the direction of better understanding. This treaty and the Czech-Polish and Greek-Yugoslav Agreements have woven a general pattern for collaboration in Europe, the details of which have to be worked out in an atmosphere free from hostilities and suspicions.

Moscow Agreement Implemented

IN reply to questions on this Pact in the House of Commons on Wednesday (December 15), Mr. Anthony Eden said, "The British Government welcome this Agreement against German aggression between two of their Allies, particularly as it provides for the adherance of neighbouring countries which have also been the object of German aggression. The British Government hope that the Agreement may thus become an important instrument in giving effect to the principles enunciated in the Four-Power Declaration of general security issued at Moscow." To a question whether there was not some danger in isolated agreements without any relation to the general pattern of European security, the Foreign Secretary said, "There might well be such danger, but I do not think it can possibly be applied to this treaty in the form in which it now is". The significance of the Soviet-Czech Agreement lies in the fact that though it is a pact of friendship between two countries intended to prevent the formation of a *Cordon Sanitaire* against Russia and protect the independence and territorial integrity of the Czechoslovak Republic, it is really a part and parcel of the general plan for the security of Europe.

ON INDIA'S EASTERN FRONTIER

British soldiers and Indians unfamiliar with jungle terrain have adapted themselves to the raw life, taking monsoon, landslides, leaches and mosquitoes in their stride in the toughest job they've yet undertaken.

Making good use of their famous Kukris, Gurkhas cut their way through the jungle of Burma. These weapons, so feared by adversaries, have other uses besides sending Japs to their ancestors.

Every camp in the forward areas remains constantly on the alert against Japanese fighting patrols. Here a Gurkha mans a comouflaged sentry-post on this all important task.

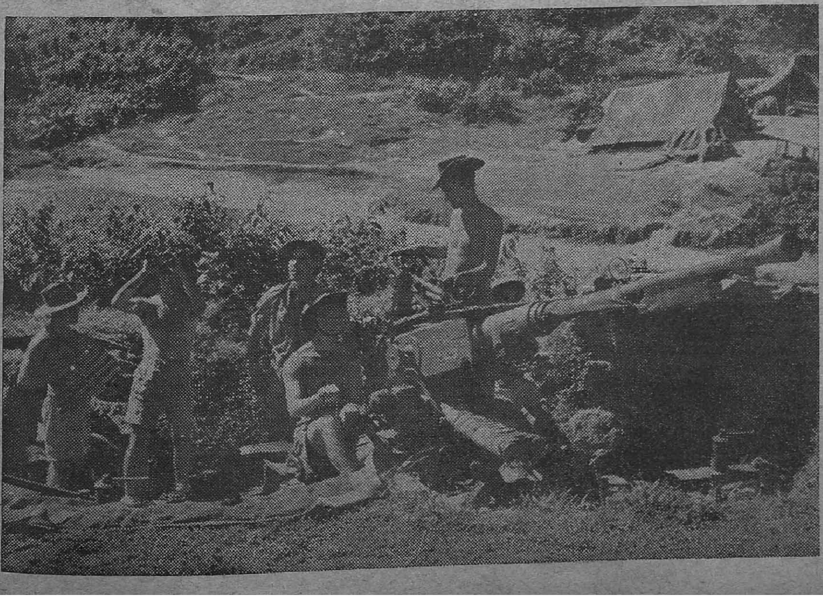


Photo shows light A. AA Gun on the alert, guarding our forward positions in the Burma hills. A Zero means nothing to these lads.

GERMANY INVENTS BATTLE FLEET

By A. J. McWHINNIE

SO Berlin propagandists have got to work to convince German naval men that they are not alone and that though they may be idle, there are other supporting naval forces at work in other waters.

Out came the surprising announcement that Germany had four battleships in commission in the Mediterranean. These were enumerated as the ex-French ships, *Dunkerque* and *Strasbourg*, and the ex-Italian battleships, *Cavour* and *Impero*. There is not a single informed naval observer in the world who believes that these four ships are capable of fighting—or likely to be!

The French ships in Toulon were scuttled with the rest of the French fleet when the Germans marched in South of France. Both have been damaged before. Neither had been fully repaired when the invasion of "unoccupied France" occurred. It is difficult to believe that Germany which has not achieved anything in repairing her prize battleship *Tirpitz*, has been concentrating on the two French ships which even if ready would present overwhelming manning difficulties.

In the case of the Italian ships, it is just as difficult to accept the Berlin claim. The *Cavour* was sunk in 1941 in the fleet air arm raid at Taranto. She was resting on the bottom with two-thirds of her upper deck under water for many months before being moved up the Adriatic for further repairs. Italy had decided some time ago that the old *Cavour* ship was out of date for front line operations. If the Italians felt they could do nothing worth while with her, it seems unlikely that the Germans with all other calls on their shipbuilding, manpower and materials would concentrate on the *Cavour*.

The fourth ship is *Impero*. Shortage of Italian steel has always been understood to be the reason why work on her was abandoned early in the war. Italian naval builders concentrated on her sister ship *Roma*. It is difficult to believe that the Germans have rushed her into commission in so short a time.

But even if the Germans have one or all these battleships, it is more than difficult to understand what they can do with them. Battleships need destroyer escorts. There is no German destroyer in the Mediterranean.

FINISHING WAR BY AIR BOMBARDMENT

By LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR DOUGLAS BROWNRIGG

THE industries in and around Berlin make it in every way a legitimate military target. Simple homes and the so-called harmless civilians are not targets for our bombs; they are incidental sufferers.

Berlin is one of the biggest munition producing and distribution centres in the Reich. Bombing Berlin is not revenge for Coventry.

The world of military thought is divided into two main schools—those who hold to the theory that wars can be won by bombing alone and others who look upon the air arm merely as an additional weapon in the armoury of older fighting services. Between these two schools there are, of course, many grades of thought. It may not, therefore, be amiss to recall what Churchill said to Congress last May—"Opinion, Mr. President, is divided as to whether the use of air power could by itself bring about the collapse of Germany or Italy. The experiment is well worth trying so long as other measures are not excluded. There is certainly no harm in finding out."

That is just what is happening now. Other measures go on apace—we see them in the capture of Gomel and the steady approach to the 1939 Polish frontier; in crossing the Sangro river; and in the silent preparations of this country for opening what I prefer to call the final front in Europe. But while these other measures are in progress, the Royal Air Force and the United States Air Force are finding out whether the war can now be finished by bombing alone.

Should this prove to be the case, countless valuable lives will have been saved and the United Nations will be able to go forth to battle against the Japanese in the highest hope of speedy victory. Should the German will to win survive the destruction of one city after another, British and American airmen will not have wasted their time.

They will have softened resistance against the final punch from the ground.

The difference will be just this; that if air attack alone suffices to bring the Nazis to their knees, the armies of the Allies will enter Hitler's fortress as policemen to keep the peace in Europe whilst its future is decided. If airmen by themselves cannot make the Germans cry for mercy, then the armies will have to fight their way into the fortress already seriously damaged by aerial assaults.

The United Nations have gained supremacy in the air on the western front whilst the Germans still retain supremacy on the ground. It is commonsense and military prudence to use first the swiftest weapon in the hope that it will suffice to do the job.

"Peterborough" in *The Daily Telegraph* tells this story:—

A Berlin worker asked a bank clerk how to invest his life-savings of one thousand marks. "Buy State bonds," he was advised. "But," he replied, "supposing the State goes broke?"

"You forget the Nazi party will see that it doesn't."

"But," persisted the man, "supposing the Nazi party collapses?"

"Well," was the answer, "isn't that worth one thousand marks?"

IN DENMARK TO-DAY

(From a Danish Correspondent)

FOLLOWING is the latest information received from London regarding the situation in Denmark:

Shortly before his imprisonment King Christian of Denmark issued the following statements:—

"In case the Germans introduce the Jewish yellow star in Denmark, I and my whole family will wear it as a sign of the highest distinction."

To the Primate of the Danish State Church the King said:

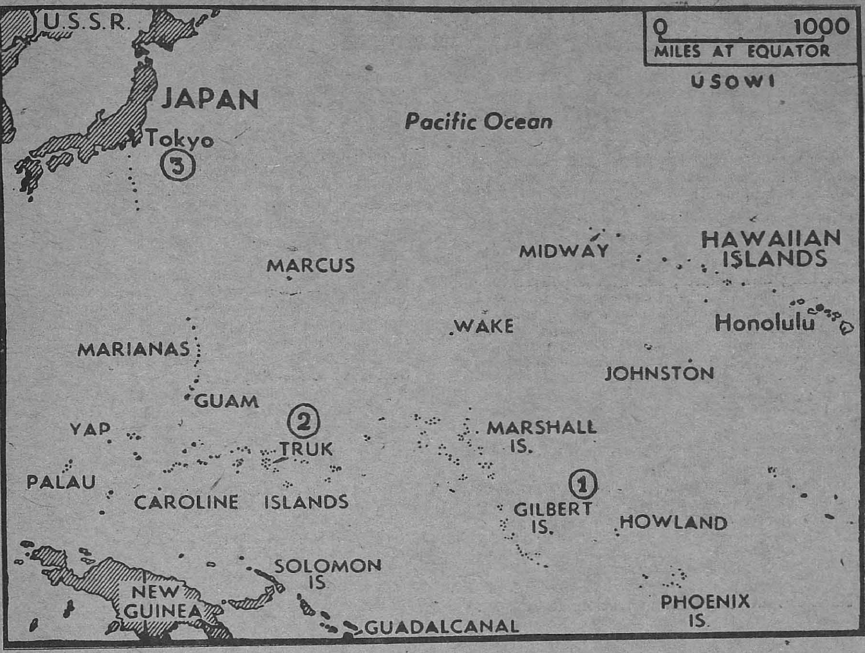
"Tell everybody that peace is near. We have allies in other lands who fight for our cause. Make it known to all that I will sign no Decree for the formation of a new Government as long as the Germans are in this country. What I have signed hitherto has been done under compulsion. God save you all! God save our country."

The present political situation in Denmark is described in London as follows:—

"The King is in prison or house-arrest. There is no Cabinet, and the Parliament which according to the Constitution shall meet on the first Tuesday in October did not meet. When we say that there is no Government the position is this: The Cabinet has handed in its resignation, but the King refused to accept it (in order to prevent a possible Nazi Cabinet from seizing power), but the Ministers have ceased functioning. As late as the end of October, however, Danish newspapers still referred to the Ministers by their titles. The executive and statutory powers are with the Germans; the judicial power in civil and ordinary criminal cases with the Danish authorities. Cases affecting the German "Wehrmackt" and other cases affecting the Germans are "tried" by German courts. "Nothing of this is based on any agreement with the Germans, they have simply seized power. To justify their actions the Germans refer to Part III of the Hague-Convention, which deals with land-warfare on *enemy-territory*. Germany has not declared war on Denmark, and neither has Denmark declared war on Germany, which last is technically impossible as a declaration of war in Denmark requires the joint declaration of the King and the Government."

The last two points are interesting. It would be interesting to know on how many countries Germany actually have declared war; are there any?

PACIFIC THEATRE



TOJO'S HOME FRONT PROBLEMS

By ILYIN

JAPAN'S extreme vulnerability from sea and air and her general shortage of armaments, compared with the quantity and quality of armaments of Great Britain and the United States of America, is seriously alarming the Japanese and obliging the ruling circles to utilize every possibility of expanding war production.

A special Ministry of Armaments has been created for this purpose, headed by Tojo. Other reorganizations and changes in the ministers have also been effected with the aim of strengthening war production. All these measures represent in the opinion of the Japanese ruling circle a "major achievement in war policy and in strengthening of the internal State structure."

Evidence of war-time difficulties, growing from day-to-day, is manifest in different fields. Japan is experiencing a great shortage of skilled technical personnel, also serious difficulties with regard to raw materials and supply of food and consumers goods to the people. This is a fertile soil for rampant profiteering. There is a growing tension in the home situation and efforts of the Japanese ruling circles to strengthen the situation are not restricted to economic measures.

WAR WEARINESS SPREADS

There is much talk of the necessity to raise the "fighting spirit." War weariness, uncertainty and doubt of victory are spreading among the people, but they are being resolutely suppressed. During the early period of the war the Tojo Government was supported by extreme reactionaries. These elements are backed by groups of army and navy officers, pursuing tactics of "resolute action," advancing a programme of unbridled aggression and colonial conquests. They used every means to propel Japan into the war, ignoring the country's economic possibilities. Hoping for a victory of Fascist Germany in Europe, these extremist elements in Japan are also inspirers of various anti-Soviet plans. These groups are trying to bring about the utmost Fascisation of the country.

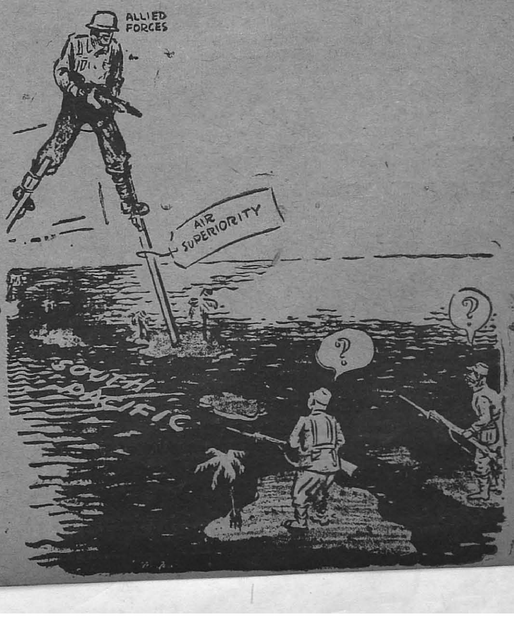
In view of the gravity of the internal and the international position, the Japanese Government is now seeking rapprochement with financiers, Parliamentary parties, court and aristocratic circles which favour more cautious tactics in foreign policy. Under pressure of events, Tojo has been forced to make considerable concessions to financial circles, the court and aristocracy, he is discarding his former extremist friends who have lost their past influence in the Government's home and foreign policies.

APPROACHING DISASTER

The present internal political situation in Japan is characterized not only by this reorientation of General Tojo but also by the fact that leaders of big concerns and Parliamentary party leaders, and representatives of the influential bloc of old dignitaries, having shoved aside the extremists, are trying in their own ways to avert the approaching disaster. At the present they are supporting the Government, while remaining in the

On the other hand, the extremists are clearly dissatisfied with Tojo and the "appeasing" policy of his Government which has refused to carry out their plans in home and foreign policies. Most prominent extremists are fighting against Tojo and his Cabinet. At present the extremists have largely lost their political influence. Characteristic of this is the fate of Nakand Seigo, nicknamed "Japanese Hitler." He clearly remained without a job. In Japan's present difficult situation his demagogy in questions of home policy proved unacceptable for the ruling circles and was even considered dangerous. His foreign policy and orientation of siding with Fascist Germany to the end, now that Germany is on the eve of defeat, also finds no support among the leading circles of Japan, to say nothing of the masses. Everybody is now avoiding this importunate loud chatterer and demagogue.—"*War and Working Classes.*"

Lengthening His Stride



POST-WAR RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

FULL TEXT OF WASHINGTON AGREEMENT

The following is the full text of the Agreement for United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration which was signed at Washington by the Government of India on November 9, 1943, simultaneously with other Governments, subject to the reservation that the Agreement shall not come into force until it has been approved by the Indian Legislature:—

THE Governments or authorities whose duly-authorized representatives have subscribed hereto,

Being United Nations or being associated with the United Nations in this war,

Being determined that immediately upon the liberation of any area by the armed forces of the United Nations, or as a consequence of retreat of the enemy, the population thereof shall receive aid and relief from their sufferings, food, clothing and shelter, aid in the prevention of pestilence and in the recovery of the health of the people, and that preparation and arrangements shall be made for the return of prisoners and exiles to their homes, and for assistance in the resumption of urgently needed agricultural and industrial production and the restoration of essential services,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

There is hereby established the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

1. The Administration shall have power to acquire, hold and convey property, to enter into contracts and undertake obligations, to designate or create agencies and to review the activities of agencies so created, to manage undertakings and in general to perform any legal act appropriate to its objects and purposes.

2. Subject to the provisions of Article VII, the purposes and functions of the Administration shall be as follows:—

(*a*) To plan, co-ordinate, administer or arrange for the administration of measures for the relief of victims of war in any area under the control of any of the United Nations through the provision of food, fuel, clothing, shelter and other basic necessities, medical and other essential services; and to facilitate in such areas so far as necessary to the adequate provision of relief the production and transportation of these articles and the furnishing of these services. The form of activities of the Administration within the territory of a member government wherein that Government exercises administrative authority and the responsibility to be assumed by the member government for carrying out measures planned by the Administration therein shall be determined after consultation with and with the consent of the member government.

(*b*) To formulate and recommend measures for individual or joint action by any or all of the member governments for the co-ordination of purchasing, the use of ships and other procurement activities in the period following the cessation of hostilities, with a view to integrating the plans and activities of the Administration with the total movement of supplies, and for the purpose of achieving an equitable distribution of available supplies. The administration may administer such co-ordination measures as may be authorized by the member governments concerned.

(*c*) To study, formulate and recommend for individual or joint action by any or all of the member governments measures with respect to such related matters, arising out of its experience in planning and performing the work of relief and rehabilitation, as may be proposed by any of the member governments. Such proposals shall be studied and recommendations formulated if the proposals are supported by a vote of the Council and the recommendations shall be referred to any or all of the member governments for individual or joint action if approved by unanimous vote of the Central Committee and by vote of the Council.

ARTICLE II—MEMBERSHIP

The members of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration shall be the governments or authorities signatory hereto and such other governments or authorities as may upon application for membership be admitted thereto by action of the Council. The Council may if it desires authorize the Central Committee to accept new members between sessions of the Council. Wherever the term "member Government" is used in this agreement it shall be construed to mean a member of the administration whether a government or an authority.

ARTICLE III—THE COUNCIL

1. Each member government shall name one representative, and such alternates as may be necessary, upon the Council of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, which shall be the policy-making body of the Administration. The Council shall, for each of its sessions, select one of its members to preside at the session. The Council shall determine its own rules of procedure. Unless otherwise provided by the agreement or by action of the Council, the Council shall vote by simple majority.

2. The Council shall be convened in regular session not less than twice a year by the Central Committee. It may be convened in special session whenever the Central Committee shall deem necessary, and shall be convened within thirty days after request therefor by one-third of the members of the Council.

3. The Central Committee of the Council shall consist of the representatives of China, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, with the Director-General presiding without vote. Between sessions of the Council it shall when necessary make policy decisions of an emergency nature. All such decisions shall be recorded in the minutes of the Central Committee which shall be communicated promptly to each member government. Such decisions shall be open to reconsideration by the Council at any regular session or at any special session called in accordance with Article III, paragraph 2. The Central Committee shall invite the participation of the representatives of any member government at those of its meetings at which action of special interest to such government is discussed. It shall invite the participation of the representative serving as Chairman of the Committee on Supplies of the Council at those of its meetings at which policies affecting the provision of supplies are discussed.

4. The Committee on Supplies of the Council shall consist of the members of the Council, or their alternates, representing those member governments likely to be principal suppliers of materials for relief and rehabilitation. The members shall be appointed by the Council and the Council may authorize the Central Committee to make emergency appointments between sessions of the Council, such appointments to continue until the next session of the Council. The Committee on Supplies shall consider, formulate and recommend to the Council and the Central Committee policies designed to assure the provision of required supplies. The Central Committee shall from time to time meet with the Committee on Supplies to review policy matters affecting supplies.

5. The Committee of the Council for Europe shall consist of all the members of the Council, or their alternates, representing member governments of territories within the European area, and such other members of the Council, representing other governments directly concerned with the problems of relief and rehabilitation in the European area, as shall be appointed by the Council; the Council may authorize the Central Committee to make these appointments in cases of emergency between sessions of the Council, such appointments to continue until the next session of the Council. The Committee of the Council for the Far East shall consist of all the members of the Council, or their alternates, representing member governments of territories within the Far Eastern area, and such other members of the Council representing other governments directly concerned with the problems of relief and rehabilitation in the Far Eastern area as shall be appointed by the Council; the Council may authorize the Central Committee to make these appointments in cases of emergency between sessions of the Council, such appointments to continue until the next session of the Council. The regional Committees shall normally meet within their respective areas. They shall consider and recommend to the Council and the Central Committee policies with respect to relief and rehabilitation within their respective areas. The committee of the Council for Europe shall replace the Inter-Allied Committee on European-post-war relief established in London on September 24, 1941, and the records of the latter shall be made available to the Committee for Europe.

6. The Council shall establish such other standing regional committees as it shall consider desirable, the functions of such committees and the method of appointing their members being identical to that provided in paragraph 5 of this Article with respect to the Committees of the Council for Europe and for the Far East. The Council shall also establish such other standing committees as it considers desirable to advise it, and, in intervals between sessions of the Council, to advise the Central Committee. For such technical standing committees as may be established, in respect of particular problems such as nutrition, health, agriculture, transport, repatriation, and finance, the members may be members of the Council or alternates nominated by them because of special competence in their respective fields of work. The members

S/Ldr. Horn and F/Lt. Williams with their 10 months old black bears "Robert" and "Elsie." They were purchased when two weeks old for five rupees each.

"Robert" and "Elsie" are the mascots of a Royal Air Force Beaufighter Squadron in India, and they have brought it luck, for it has a fine record of successful sweeps over Japanese-occupied Burma.

They are two shaggy brown bears, brother and sister. To their owners, a squadron leader from Oxford and a flight lieutenant from Bristol, they show great affection.

Now at ten months old they roam playfully in a grassy compound outside the officers' mess and are liable to scare any visitors who come across them unawares, for they reach more than waist high.

They were bought for 7 *s.* 6 *d.* each when two weeks old from an Indian villager, and have travelled round India with the Squadron. Spoon-fed in their early days on milk, they thrive on a vegetarian diet—the cookhouse door is their favourite place.

shall be appointed by the Council and the Council may authorize the Central Committee to make emergency appointments to continue until the next session of the Council. Should a regional committee so desire, sub-committees of the technical standing committees shall be established by the technical committees in consultation with the regional committees, to advise the regional committees.

7. The travel and other expenses of members of the Council and of members of its committees shall be borne by the governments which they represent.

8. All reports and recommendations of committees of the Council shall be transmitted to the Director-General for distribution to the Council and the Central Committee by the secretariat of the Council established under the provisions of Article IV, paragraph 4.

ARTICLE IV—THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

1. The executive authority of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration shall be in the Director-General, who shall be appointed by the Council on the nomination by unanimous vote of the Central Committee. The Director-General may be removed by the Council on recommendation by unanimous vote of the Central Committee.

2. The Director-General shall have full power and authority for carrying out relief operations contemplated by Article I, paragraph 2 (*a*), within the limits of available resources and the broad policies determined by the Council or its Central Committee. Immediately upon taking office he shall in conjunction with the military and other appropriate authorities of the United Nations prepare plans for the emergency relief of the civilian population in any area occupied by the armed forces of any of the United Nations, arrange for the procurement and assembly of the necessary supplies and create or select the emergency organization required for this purpose. In arranging for the procurement, transportation and distribution of supplies and services, he and his representatives shall consult and collaborate with the appropriate authorities of the United Nations and shall, wherever practicable, use the facilities made available by such authorities. Foreign voluntary relief agencies may not engage in activity in any area receiving relief from the Administration without the consent and unless subject to the regulation of the Director-General. The powers and duties of the Director-General are subject to the limitations of Article VII.

3. The Director-General shall also be responsible for the organization and direction of the functions contemplated by Article I, paragraphs 2 (*b*) and 2 (*c*).

4. The Director-General shall appoint such Deputy Directors-General, officers, expert personnel, and staff at his headquarters and elsewhere, including field missions, as he shall find necessary, and he may delegate to them such of his powers as he may deem appropriate. The Director-General, or upon his authorization the Deputy Directors-General, shall supply such secretariat and other staff and facilities as shall be required by the Council and its committees, including the regional committees and sub-committees. Such Deputy Directors-General as shall be assigned special functions within a region shall attend meetings of the regional standing committee whenever possible and shall keep it advised on the progress of the relief and rehabilitation programme within the region.

5. The Director-General shall make periodic reports to the Central Committee and to the Council covering the progress of the Administration's activities. The reports shall be made public except for such portions as the Central Committee may consider it necessary, in the interest of the United Nations, to keep confidential. If a report affects the interests of a member government in such a way as to render it questionable whether it should

(*Continued on page 16*)

MADRASSI SOLDIER ACTOR

WHEN a magician performing to a Madrassi unit somewhere in North India called unexpectedly on one of his audience for assiistance in a conjuring act, driver Rosaya of Manakapuram P.O., Tiruttani, Chittoor district, stepped forward briskly and stole the act by his impromptu performance as comedian.

Onam had come round and the C.O. had declared it a holiday for all ranks. The officeres had contributed something each and the regimental funds had swelled by Rs. 50.

Festivities began with South Indian puris, fruit and tea for breakfast. Prayers followed. Then came the magician. The whole unit had turned out to see the conjurer. The Officers' Mess Lawn was crowded. Expectation ran high. The magician beckoned to the unobstrusive little driver who responded readily enough. The next moment great roars of laughter had broken from Madrassi throats as the old southern buffoonery was enacted in inimitable southern way.

(Continued from page 15)

be published, such government shall have an opportunity of expressing its views on the question of publication. The Director-General shall also arrange to have prepared periodic reports covering the activities of the administration within each region and he shall transmit such reports with his comments thereon to the Council, the Central Committee and the respective regional committees.

ARTICLE V—SUPPLIES AND RESOURCES

1. In so far as its appropriate constitutional bodies shall authorize, each member government will contribute to the support of the administration in order to accomplish the purposes of Article I, paragraph 2. The amount and character of the contributions of each member government under this provision will be determined from time to time by its appropriate constitutional bodies. All such contributions received by the administration shall be accounted for.

2. The supplies and resources made available by the member governments shall be kept in review in relation to prospective requirements by the Director-General, who shall initiate action with the member governments with a view to assuring such additional supplies and resources as may be required.

3. All purchases by any of the member governments, to be made outside their own territories during the war for relief or rehabilitation purposes, shall be made only after consultation with the Director-General, and shall, so far as practicable, be carried out through the appropriate United Nations Agency.

INDIAN ARMY WANTS 'VETS'

MORE veterinary doctors are wanted by the Indian Army to look after the thousands of horses and mules on service with the fighting men. These animals are doing yeoman service with our forces in Burma and Italy and also proved valuable in the North African campaigns.

With large-scale mechanisation of transport in the Indian Army the mule had almost disappeared from R.I.A.S.C. units but as operations across the Burma frontier gained in intensity more and more mules and ponies were recruited. They are invaluable for carrying food, medical supplies, ammunition and stores to fighting men in jungle or mountainous country; another of their jobs is to bring back sick and wounded from forward areas to base camps along paths where stretchers cannot be carried.

Though, sure-footed, tireless and indifferent to the fire, noise and smoke of battle, they make excellent pack carriers on narrow hill tracks under war conditions, Indian mules are being employed in England to train horses to work under similar difficulties.

To get the necessary number of officers to doctor these animals, it has now been decided to grant emergency commissions in the Indian land forces for work with Indian Army Veterinary Corps to men under 40 holding certain qualifications. These qualifications must have been gained in either the Madras or Punjab Veterinary Colleges or during actual service as veterinary assistant surgeons in the I.A.V.C.

Candidates holding qualifications from colleges other than Madras or Punjab will also be eligible for commissioning as assistant surgeons with the rank of jamadar. They will be promoted from jamadar to risaldar immediately on entry and become eligible for emergency commissions, after 12 months.

These army 'vets.' have a responsible job and have done sterling work in keeping R.I.A.S.C. supply animals fit and moving in many theatres of war.

"I have stuck obstinately to the opinion that, without close and continuous Anglo-Russian co-operation, alike in military, political and economic fields, there could be no assured peace in Europe."—*Dr. Hugh Dalton, President of the Board of Trade.*

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"It is not what we have, but what we do with what we have, that counts."—*Text inscribed on wall of research kitchen, British Ministry of Food.*

ARMY'S SALVAGE DRIVE

Under the Army's drive to save materials which may be used again the Salvage sections at one headquarters in Southern India have saved as much as 4,099 cwt. of paper, 1,911 cwt. of cardboard, 604 cwt. of rubber, 5,751 cwt. of ferrous metals, 715 cwt. of non-ferrous metals, 10,838 cwt. of tinplate, 2,262 cwt. of gunny sacks, 3,063 cwt. of broken glass and 5,416 bottles, all in six months.

This is worked by the trained salvage units whose job it is to see that the army wastes nothing. There is literally nothing that cannot be put to a good use. Everyone is familiar with the fact that paper goes to make cartridge plugs for small shells and bullets, but old tins go to make lamp-shades, drinking mugs, kettles, and even a new country oil lamp which burns a vegetable oil instead of kerosene.

The Army Salvage units cover the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force too. There is nothing they are not prepared to save. Recently they tackled a steamer which had run aground, simply took it to pieces and sent the materials to the various factories which could use them to build another vessel.

Certain types of tin contain expensive solder which is in short supply. At one salvage depot the pay bill for the entire depot for a month was covered by the value of solder gained from empty tins. At another area anti-mosquito cream tins were produced by the Army itself from old tins at a total saving to the Government of nearly Rs. 30,000, Gramophone needles are urgently wanted now, for the manufacture of compasses, but they must be Columbia duragold or H.M.V. loudtone.

In Britain and America some amazing figures have been reached in the salvage drive. A total of 12,522,540 pairs of silk old stockings have been collected from American women and in Britain more than a quarter of a million disused motor cars and other vehicles have gone to be broken up for supplies for munitions.

Saving by preventing waste is another vital part of salvage work. In Britain where more than 30 convoys have been saved by the work of salvage alone, women have volunteered to teach soldiers how to darn their socks properly and care for their clothes. A regular "make and mend" period is included in the weekly programme. Rubber and aluminium are two most valuable products which Army Salvage is concentrating upon in India, and most households have some aluminium ware which could be replaced in by less important metal. In many places civilians have organized "scrap" committees and although the Army cannot undertake to collect material, civilians can dump salvage with the nearest military unit.

These Sergeants have solved the problem of obtaining fresh milk at their R.A.F. Station on India's Eastern Frontier. An ex-farmer does the milking—and it's not rationed. If the cow runs dry, there are plenty more.

WEEKLY JOTTINGS

By "CHRONICLER"

SITUATION IN YUGOSLAVIA—RUSSIA—BATTLE OF THE BULGE — ZNAMENKA — CHERKASSY — THE SOVIET-CZECH PACT—ITALY—TURKEY.

YUGOSLAVIA

Marshal Rommel's armies in the Balkans have begun a big scale offensive against Partisan-held areas of Yugoslavia. German troops are helped by Bulgarian, Croat Quislings, and Chetnik units. The offensive is against the liberated territory in Yugoslavia. The Germans have also brought fresh reinforcements from Greece and Albania.

The British Government's attitude towards the new developments in Yugoslavia was defined in the House of Commons, when the Minister of State assisting the Foreign Secretary, replying to a question, said he was not yet in a position to say what the relation of the guerilla forces under General Tito and General Mihailo-vitch would be to King Peter and his Government, recognized by the British Government as the legitimate Yugoslav Government and now established in Cairo. Nevertheless British policy is to support all Yugoslav forces which are resisting the Germans. As things are, Britain is supporting the Partisan forces more than General Mihailovitch for the simple reason that the resistance of the Fartisan forces to the Germans is very much greater.

General Mihailovitch, the leader of the Chetniks, observed in the course of a statement that "all who considered themselves the King's enemies are also our enemies with whom we cannot negotiate. Dr. Ribar's Government is nothing else than an organization of self-seeking people who in this way try to free themselves of the shameful fact that they have co-operated with General Neditch, General Pavelitch, or the Germans and Italians. If further those partisans should declare themselves officially in opposition to King Peter, we shall regard them as our enemies in the same way as we regard General Neditch's, Bulgarian, German and Italian soldiers."

According to a Free Yugoslav Radio report, the National Committee for Liberation of Yugoslavia—Marshal Tito's Provisional Government—at its last meeting decided to ask for representation on the European Advisory Council as well as on the Allied Mediterranean Commission. At the same meeting the Committee decided to ask for lease-lend supplies for the successful fight against the common enemy.

It is authoritatively learnt that General Tito's army of Partisans is now and has been for some time a properly organized military force divided into corps and divisions and about 200,000 strong. The communiqués of Yugoslav National Army of Liberation which are broadcast by the Free Yugoslav Radio present a consecutive story of Yugoslavian operations and are reliable. The purpose of their operations is to disrupt German supply routes by land and sea and attack enemy columns wherever they can get at them. They try to hold on to as many islands as they can so as to enable them to get sea borne supplies for their forces. Britain gives the Partisans some air support and they have British liaison officers. The Free Yugoslav Radio announced on December 12 a nine-point constitution on which the Provisional Yugoslav Government set up by Marshal Tito, the Partisan leader, is based. The points are:—

(1) That the new Yugoslavia shall be based on the equality of all the nations inhabiting it;

(2) An Anti-Fascist Council of the National Liberation Movement is set up for the duration of the war, as the supreme legislative and executive organ;

(3) This Council is to elect a Presidium of one President, five Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries, and at least 40 members;

(4) The Presidium carries out all legislative and executive functions between the sessions of the Anti-Fascist Council;

(5) The Presidium is to elect a National Committee for the liberation of Yugoslavia;

(6) The National Committee is to be the highest executive organ;

(7) The National Committee has the character of a National Government and is responsible to the Presidium;

(8) The National Committee is composed of one President, three Vice-Presidents and an appropriate number of Commissioners;

(9) The Constitution is to come into force immediately.

Mr. Eden, the British Foreign Minister, defined more clearly the British policy in the House of Commons in relation to Yugoslavia and Greece in the course of the war debate on December 14 and stated: "After three years of enemy occupation and guerilla fighting there was still no little internal confusion (in Yugoslavia and Greece). It must be remembered that German propaganda day and night is trying to increase that confusion, trying

to spread false reports of our intentions, trying to separate us from our Allies, and trying to play on against the other. Three guiding rules were, firstly to give all practical help to those elements actively resisting the enemy; secondly to make clear, so far as we can exert any authority, that it shall be used to ensure that these countries shall be free to choose their own governments when liberated; and thirdly to work in the closest possible concert with our Allies." Mr. Eden also disclosed the fact that for many months past the head and front of the resistance to the enemy in Yugoslavia had been the Partisans under their Commander-in-Chief, General Tito, that these Partisans were containing and engaging a large number of German divisions, and that Britain was doing all she could to supply them with munitions and support them in every possible way. It was also revealed that a British Military Mission was with General Tito since last spring, having established excellent relations with the General. A Soviet Military Mission has been decided on and the two missions will be working in close collaboration. The National Committee of Liberation recently set up under the auspices of the Commander-in-Chief of the Partisan forces in Yugoslavia did not claim any authority outside the border area in which it operated and had not claimed any form of recognition from the British Government. The Partisans have emphasised the provisional nature of the administration and held that it was for the Yugoslav people, as soon as their country was liberated, freely to choose the form of Government they wished. It was also the desire of King Peter himself and his Government. It was not that the Yugoslav Government in Cairo agreed at all points with General Tito's Partisans; but all parties in Yugoslavia, including the Government in Cairo, were agreed that as soon as their country was liberated it was for the people to choose for themselves their own Government.

As regards the position in Greece, Mr. Eden said it was not on all fours with that of Yugoslavia. In Greece there were warring bands, all in different degrees hostile to the Germans. There were also political controversies which cut right across the matter. It was the British aim in Greece to try and unite all these bands, almost all of them in common action against the enemy. A letter written to his Cabinet by the King of the Hellenes in November last showed clearly that he wished to make his contribution so that his position should not be a matter of controversy or get in the way of unity.

RUSSIA

In the Kiev salient Field-Marshal Manstein's heavy tanks and General Vatutin's mobile guns are having a slogging match. On new positions taken up in *Chernyakhov* area to the west of Kiev, the Red Army is standing firm in the face of strong assaults. Field-Marshal Manstein is dealing furious and persistent attacks, and it is not possible to say whether his assaults have reached their climax. The present one is the fourth tank force which the German General has mustered for his counter-offensive against the Kiev salient. Meanwhile the Russians inside the Dnieper bend are pushing rapidly on after their break-through towards Znamenka. In the past 24 hours they have advanced from 8 to 10 miles westwards towards Cherkassy and southwards towards Krivoi Rog. During December 8, Red troops west and south-west of Kremenchug continued their offensive, and cut the Znamenka-Nikolaev railway and the Znamenka-Krivoi Rog railway by the capture of the railway station of Sharovka.

DECEMBER 9

On a new front of 150 miles slung across the Dnieper bend, powerful Russian Forces are driving in a fivefold thrust towards the Black Sea coast. The field is set for new attacks on the five main strongholds of Cherkassy, Znamenka, Kirovgrad, Krivoi Rog and Nikopol, barring the way to Nikolaev and the mouth of the Bug. This new offensive is taking the following five main directions: (1) to Cherkassy from which the Russian Forces pushing west from the Kremenchug area are now only 25 miles distant; (2) to Znamenka under heavy shell-fire from two miles range, invested on three sides and its last rail line—to Kirovgrad—threatened; (3) to Kirovgrad, important rail and road centre, south-west of Znamenka at the head of the main north-south road to Nikolaev. The Russian Forces which cut the two railways on either side of Znamenka are now converging on Kirovgrad from the north and east from distances of 15 and 17 miles; (4) to Krivoi Rog, now cut off from its last direct supply route and exposed to a double attack from the north-east and north-west: and (5) to Nikopol, whose fate is inevitably bound up with that of Krivoi Rog.

German attacks in the Kiev salient are mounting in intensity and have gained more ground. New German tank attacks were launched at dawn on December 9, along the road to Kiev, north-east of Chernyakhov. This is the fourth week since the German offensive in this sector began and the battle that is raging here is described as the greatest since Stalingrad. The Germans are throwing in groups of 150 to 200 panzers at a time, and the German tank army has been able to drive several wedges into General Vatutin's positions. But their success has been shortlived. In hand to hand fighting, every German inside the wedges has been exterminated in ruthless struggle. The Russians, deprived of their last grenade, went for the Germans and strangled them with their bare hands. The furious struggle is taking place fifty miles west of Kiev and the position is reported to be tense. It is stated that in the opinion of military observers, the Battle of the Bulge may be described as the greatest battle of 1943, the climax of which has been almost reached.

Cherkassy, an important German bastion on the west bank of the Dnieper, south-east of Kiev, has been the scene of fierce fighting for a number of weeks, and according to the German Radio on December 12, Russian troops have penetrated into the area of the Cherkassy railway station, and heavy fighting raged round the station and other parts of the town, where the Russians had penetrated. For the first time after the gigantic Battle of the Kiev Bulge started four weeks ago, the Soviet High Command reported only on December 12, that the Red Army had gained ground in this sector. The Red Army after 30 days of almost non-stop panzer onslaughts still stands firm and is steadily wearing down German counter-blows, each made by 200 tanks and masses of infantry. The German Commanders are whipping on their men for new and even costlier attacks with threats of instant shooting for all who waver before the terrible Soviet artillery. But on December 14, comes the announcement that Russians have captured Cherkassy. Znamenka is fifty miles south-east of Cherkassy.

Another most significant victory on the Russian front last week has been the capture on December 10, of the important railway centre of Znamenka, which has made it difficult for Germans to supply their armies in the Dnieper bend. The steady Soviet penetration into the deep Dnieper bend has left a number of German pockets which are now being cleaned up by powerful groups of Soviet tanks, artillery and tommy-gunners.

THE SOVIET-CZECH PACT

The Soviet-Czech Pact has been signed, "a treaty of amity, mutual aid, and postwar collaboration." This announcement was made by the Moscow Radio on December 12. The treaty is primarily aimed at blocking any future eastward march by the Germans and open to the eventual adherence of neighbouring countries such as Poland. It is designed to form a rib in the cuirass of general European security, and as such it can only be welcomed by all the United Nations. Dr. Benes, President of Czechoslovakia, stated in the course of an interview with *Reuter's* Special Correspondent: "The treaty represents a return to the policy which Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union were carrying out before the world war. The treaty emphasises what all great Allied powers have emphasised so often before, namely, that the German drive to the east must be definitely brought to an end. The treaty also means the removal of any question of Czechoslovakia joining in a *cordon sanitaire* against Russia."

ITALY

On the Eighth Army front advance is continuing in the face of repeated enemy counter-attacks. The troops continue to advance in the coastal sector under unfavourable weather conditions. The Eighth Army troops have captured San Leonardo. Two bridgeheads have now been established over the Moro river in spite of considerable opposition. The Indian units in action in Italy are the 15th Punjabis, the Fifth Gurkha Rifles, and the Bengal Lancers. All these three Indian units have been fighting with the Eighth Army.

Soviet Generals and officers, including General Vasiliev visited the Fifth Army front in Italy and have been much impressed by the difficulty of the weather and terrain, facing the British and American troops in their advance on Rome. General Vasiliev is one of the best known of the Red Army's Commanders, and he headed the group that visited the Italian theatre.

TURKEY

Before replying to the Allied invitation to confer with President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill, President Inonu of Turkey convened a special meeting of the People's (Government) Party, at which the situation was clearly discussed. The meeting with President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill may be regarded as representing a clear departure in Turkish policy, seeing that Turkey for the first time consented to meet Allied statesmen other than British, Britain being the only country allied to Turkey. Whatever may be the outcome of the meeting, it may be interpreted as a step forward towards closer and fuller Turkish co-operation with the Allies.

Referring to the Turkish Foreign Minister's recent statement that the conversations in Cairo were so intimate and far-reaching that he could now say Turkish relations with the United States and the Soviet Union were almost as cordial and strong as with Great Britain, Mr. Eden declared in the course of the War Debate in the House of Commons on December 14: "Those who know the past history of this business will realise what an important statement that is."

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

7TH DEC.—According to an official announcement the King is suffering from influenza and will be confined to his room for several days.

Mr. Clement Attlee declared in the House of Commons that the recent speech of General Smuts was not the statement of the British Government's policy.

Dr. Goebbels spoke at a railwaymen's rally.

8TH DEC.—The King is making good progress.

9TH DEC.—The King continued to make satisfactory progress.

Mr. Attlee announced that the House of Commons will debate the war situation and foreign affairs for two days next week.

The General Council of the League of Nation's Union adopted a pact for an international authority.

10TH DEC.—Four enemy aircraft were shot down when London had an alert to-day for the first time since December 1.

A joint statement regarding U-Boat warfare in November is issued to-day by United States and United Kingdom authorities.

His Majesty the King George held a meeting of the Privy Council to-day. He has completely recovered.

11TH DEC.—Large formations of United States bombers attacked Emden naval and submarine base in Germany in daylight. One hundred and thirty-eight German aircraft were destroyed.

His Majesty the King George made a brief appearance at a dance given in the country last night.

German Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop gave a radio talk to-night.

12TH DEC.—Mosquito bombers attacked objectives in Western Germany last night.

The Chief of all United States Air Forces General Henry H. Arnold declared "A terrible time is awaiting the German people this winter and even more so during the coming spring."

13TH DEC.—United States bombers attacked targets in North-west Germany.

The King will broadcast to his people at home and in the Empire on Christmas Day.

14TH DEC.—His Majesty the King Emperor is 48 to-day. He is spending the anniversary quietly with the Queen and the Princesses.

German towns in western and north-western Germany were bombed by Allied aircraft. Industrial areas in Rhineland and Westphalia were attacked by Allied raiders.

The British Foreign Minister Mr. Anthony Eden opening the war debate in the House of Commons made a survey of the whole war situation.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

7TH DEC.—The United States Navy Secretary Col. Knox expressed the belief that the security of the world depends in a very large measure upon Anglo-American leadership.

Marshal Vorzhilov, the hero of Stalingrad, may go to London to assist the British and American staffs in planning the invasion of the continent, it is believed in Washington.

America's biggest battleship *Wisconsin* was launched to-day.

8TH DEC.—The War Production Board issued an emergency call last night for vast quantities of steel.

9TH DEC.—The Senate to-day approved a resolution extending for six months the Statute of Limitations under which Rear Admiral H. Kimmel and Lieut.-General Walter C. Short can be brought to court-martial in connexion with the Jap attack on Pearl Harbour.

The War Secretary, Mr. Henry Stimson, made a statement on the tasks before the Allies.

11TH DEC.—An official communiqué issued to-day states "A strong concentration of U-boats which had gathered in the North Atlantic to launch a major attack on Allied shipping was recently decisively defeated by forces of British ships and by aircraft." A series of engagements were fought over a wide area lasting for two days and nights. Five U-boats were destroyed and three damaged.

12TH DEC.—The United States Secretary of the Treasury foreshadowed heavier taxes in the country.

Mr. Cordell Hull, United States Secretary of State, in a statement warned the people of Bulgaria, Hungary and Rumania.

13TH DEC.—The White House announces that President Roosevelt flew to Sicily on his return from the Cairo and Teheran Conferences. President is expected to appear before the Congress on his return to report on his historic trip.

14TH DEC.—The United States Navy Secretary, Col. Frank Knox told a press conference that preliminaries of fighting a major Pacific offensive were now complete.

INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

8TH DEC.—A communiqué issued to-day from the South-East Asia Command says that there were enemy attacks on the flanks of the Allied positions at Yupbang Ga and Ningbyen. The attacks were repelled. Chatham Island on the Andamans was bombed on 6th.

It is revealed that Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek passed through India on his return journey from Cairo Conference and met Lord Louis Mountbatten.

9TH DEC.—Plans for close Liaison between the South-East Asia Command and General MacArthur's South-West Pacific Command are now being formulated in New Delhi by Lord Louis Mountbatten and Major-General Richard K. Sutherland, General MacArthur's Chief of Staff.

11TH DEC.—His Excellency the Viceroy left Delhi on tour and visited Cuttack.

12TH DEC.—His Excellency the Viceroy continued his stay in Cuttack.

13TH DEC.—His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of India in a broadcast talk dealt with India's preparations for offensive.

Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Wavell spent the day inspecting kitchens for destitutes in cyclone devastated areas of Ganjam district.

Jap bombers raided an American airfield in North-eastern Assam. Two Jap bombers and five fighters were destroyed.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

7TH DEC.—Soviet forces have broken through the German defence line north of Znamenka, the battle for which is in its decisive stage. March towards Rogachev is fastly progressing.

8TH DEC.—The Russians inside the Dnieper Bend are pushing rapidly towards Znamenka. Gulokovka and Pantayevka were captured by the Soviet forces.

9TH DEC.—On a new front of 150 miles slung across the Dnieper Bend Russian forces are driving in a five-fold thrust towards the Black Sea coast. The field is set for new attacks on Cherkassy, Znamenka, Krivo-Grad, Krivoi Rog and Nikopol.

Troops of the second Ukrainian Command captured Znamenka, an important railway junction and a large centre of German resistance in Krivo-Grad direction. Mederevo was also occupied.

10TH DEC.—The Russian forces are steadily drawing tighter the ring around Krivo-Grad. Soviet troops have taken Kirovska and a number of places on the way to Krivoi Rog.

11TH DEC.—The greatest battle since Stalingrad is being fought n the Kiev bulge. In the Dnieper Bend the whole German line is in danger of crumbling. Soviet troops captured Novgowelka.

Dr. Benes arrived in Moscow.

12TH DEC.—The Red Army captured Chigirin. Heavy fighting raged round Cherkassy. Germans are fiercely resisting Soviet drive towards Krivo-Grad.

A Soviet-Czech treaty has been signed. Marshal Stalin was present at a dinner given by President Kalinin to Dr. Benes.

13TH DEC.—General Vatutin is hitting back hard in the Kiev bulge and the tide has turned in favour of the Russians. The Soviet troops have established a foothold north-west of Cherkassy.

14TH DEC.—Troops under General Ivan S. Konev have captured Cherkassy. The Germans are regrouping in the Kiev bulge. The Russians have captured several inhabited localities in the Krivo-Grad direction.

The Soviet Government has decided to send a military mission to Yugoslavia.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

7TH DEC.—The Eighth Army has crossed the Moro river. Heavy rains interfered with progress. On the Fifth Army front Allied troops made some small advances. Air fields at Eleusis and Kaslamaki were bombed by North-Western African Air forces.

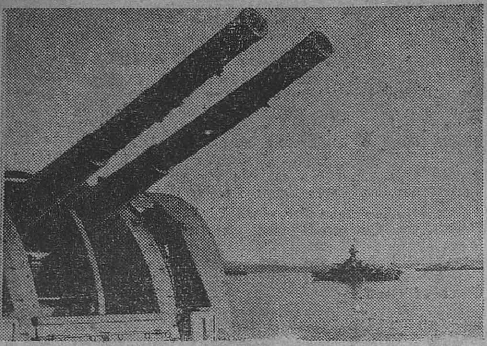
It is revealed that Gen. Smuts reached Cairo on Monday and that he conferred with President Roosevelt.

8TH DEC.—The Fifth Army captured Camino, Cocoruzzo, Accuperdula and the western slopes of Mount Maggiore.

Mr. Churchill met various statesmen to-day.

9TH DEC.—There were a number of localised actions on the Fifth Army front in which Allied troops made limited advances. Troops of the Eighth Army front remained closed in action against the enemy in the area of the Adriatic Coast. There was heavy fighting in the vicinity of Orsagro.

10TH DEC.—The Fifth Army occupied important heights south-west of Venefro. There are signs that Germans are preparing for a retreat on this front. The Eighth Army established firm positions north of Moro river.



His Majesty's Indian ship leaving Sicilian harbour the morning following night action against enemy aircraft when the ship fired several hundred rounds, helping to put up an effective barrage that frightened off the enemy. In the foreground, the ship's guns show the point blistered off the barrels by the heat of rapid fire.

Mr. Winston Churchill received press correspondents at Cairo to-day when he reviewed the course of war achievements at recent conferences.

11TH DEC.—The Eighth Army continues to advance and captured San Leonardo. Fierce fighting is in progress south of Ortona. The Fifth Army troops were engaged in several successful localised actions.

The 15th Punjabis, it is disclosed, have been in action in Italy including the crossing of the Sangro. The Fifth Gurkha Rifles captured the village of Mozzagrogma in the advance north of the Sangro. The Bengal Lancers also took part in the Sangro crossing battle. All the three Indian Units have been fighting with the Eighth Army.

Mussolini made a speech on the occasion of the anniversary of the Triparite Pact.

12TH DEC.—The Eighth Army and the Fifth Army continued to advance despite fierce enemy resistance and adverse weather conditions.

13TH DEC.—General Montgomery has launched a massed attack in the direction of Pescara and Cherla.

14TH DEC.—On the Adriatic coastal sector Allied troops threw back several enemy counter-attacks. Indian troops made further advances in the central sector of the Eighth Army front. On the Fifth Army front activity was limited.

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VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

8TH DEC.—The French Committee of National Liberation has placed on retired list Vice-Admirals Godfrey and Michelier.

11TH DEC.—The French Committee of National Liberation is expected to order the internment of a number of other persons in addition to some 40 already detained.

12TH DEC.—Gen. DeGaulle has announced that tens of thousands of Algerian Muslims are to receive all rights of French citizenship forthwith.

Gen. DeGaulle in a speech to-day said that France will rise again.

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13TH DEC.—Allied aircraft bombed enemy airfield in Amsterdam.

13TH DEC.—The Lebanese and Syrian Governments have reached complete agreement on the new policy to be followed by them.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

7TH DEC.—It is announced to-day that Mr. Roosevelt, Mr. Churchill and President Inenu met in conference in Cairo on 4th, 5th and 6th December with other High Officers of State.

The German Ambassador to Turkey, Von Papen, had an hour's talk with the Turkish Prime Minister Sarojoglu.

9TH DEC.—The Turkish Foreign Minister M. Menemencioglu made a statement on Turkey's Foreign policy and met Axis journalists and answered questions on the Cairo conference.

10TH DEC.—It is rumoured that Turko-Bulgar border has been closed and some clashes between German and Turkish troops are also reported.

11TH DEC.—Von Papen had two hours' interview with the Turkish Foreign Minister M. Menemencioglu.

12TH DEC.—The Turkish Prime Minister in a broadcast speech said that the aim of the Republic was a strong and powerful Turkey.

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THE FAR EAST

7TH DEC.—The Chinese High Command admits that Changteh has fallen into Japanese hands.

Four Australian columns are threatening the Japanese at Wareo. An enemy ship was bombed at Sekar Bay. Mosigetta area was bombed.

8TH DEC.—The American forces attacked Marshall islands and sank six enemy ships and destroyed 76 enemy planes. American troops at Bougainville enlarged their perimeter on Empress Augusta beaches.

Jap Premier Tojo in a broadcast talk expressed his confidence in meeting the Allied offensive.

9TH DEC.—The Chinese recaptured Changteh.

10TH DEC.—The Allied forces attacked Nauru island. Australians have captured Wareo.

11TH DEC.—The Japanese Cabinet has approved the budget for the fiscal year 1944-45. The new budget is a record one.

Chinese forces are within 30 miles of Hankow, capital of Hupeh.

12TH DEC.—Australian jungle-fighters threw an important bridgehead across river Tuno in New Guinea. Fighting rages in Ramu valley.

13TH DEC.—Allied forces in New Guinea have reached a point one to one and a half mile north-east of Wareo. They have joined up with Australians from Wareo.

American Mitchells bombed Jap installations in ing lake area in Central China.

14TH DEC.—The Tokyo Radio, in a war review, said that Allied resources were fathomless while "it cannot be said that the Japanese Navy has the war situation under complete control."

THE SOVIET-CZECH PACT

THE following is the text of the Soviet-Czech Pact, signed in Moscow on 12th December:—

1. The high contracting parties, having agreed on a common policy of mutual friendship and friendly post-war reconstruction and mutual aid have pledged to render each other military and other assistance and support of every kind in the present war against Germany and all those countries which are associated with her in acts of aggression in Europe.

2. Finally, the high contracting parties have pledged themselves not to enter into any negotiations with Hitler's Government during the period of the present war or with any other Government in Germany which does not explicitly renounce all aggressive intentions, and not to conduct negotiations, or to conclude, except by mutual consent, any armistice or peace agreement with Germany, or any other Government united with her in acts of aggression in Europe.

3. Confirming their pre-war policies of peace and mutual assistance, expressed in the agreement signed at Prague on May 16, 1935, the high contracting parties undertake, in the event of one of them finding itself involved during the post-war period in a war with Germany, should the latter revive her *Drang Nach Osten*, or with any other State which should unite itself with Germany either directly or indirectly in the waging of such a war, the other high contracting party shall bring to the one which may become so involved all military and other aid within its power.

4. The high contracting parties, taking into account their respective interests concerning security, have agreed upon close friendly co-operation during the period following the re-establishment of peace upon action which will conform to the principle of mutual respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, and upon non-interference in the internal affairs of one another. They shall develop their economic relations on the largest possible scale and render each other every economic assistance after the war.

5. Each of the high contracting parties undertakes not to conclude any alliance or participate in any coalition directed against the other high contracting party.

6. This agreement comes into force immediately on being signed and shall be ratified with the shortest possible delay. An exchange of the ratified texts will take place in Moscow at the earliest possible date.

This agreement shall remain in force for a period of 20 years from the time of signing. Unless one of the high contracting parties, 12 months before the expiration of the said period of 20 years, gives the other high contracting party notice of its desire to terminate this agreement, the same shall continue in force for a further period of 5 years and so on until renounced by one of the high contracting parties by giving the other 12 months' notice in writing of its intention to do so.

A Protocol to the agreement says: "The U.S.S.R. and the Czechoslovak Republic agree that in the event of any third State, which has common frontiers with the U.S.S.R. or with the Czechoslovak Republic, and which in the present war has been an object of German aggression, desiring to become a party to this agreement, such a State will be given the opportunity, with the sanction of the U.S.S.R. and the Czechoslovak Republic of signing this agreement which thereby would acquire the quality of a Tripartite agreement."

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